

## Nearby Attractions

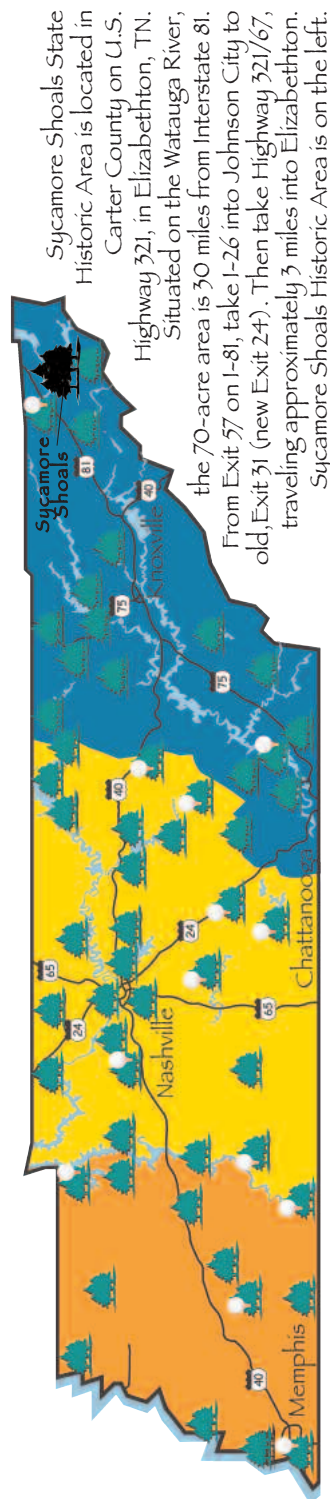
- Historic Covered Bridge, Elizabethton, 3 miles.
- Jonesborough, "Tennessee's Oldest Town," 15 miles
- Cherokee National Forest, 15 miles

## Other Nearby State Parks

- Roan Mountain State Park, 32 miles
- Warrior's Path State Park, 25 miles
- Davy Crockett Birthplace State Park, 29 miles

## Annual Events

- Traditional Arts Workshops, January - December
- Garrisons and Living History Weekends, January - December
- Sunday Jams at the Carter Mansion June- October
- Mountain River Concerts, January-October
- Muster at Fort Watauga, May
- Native American Festival, June
- Colonial Kids Day Camp, June
- "Liberty: The Saga of Sycamore Shoals," The Outdoor Drama of the State of Tennessee, July
- Carter Mansion Celebration, August
- Celtic Festival, September
- Overmountain Victory Trail Celebration, September
- Fort Watauga Knap-In, October
- Mysterious Candlelight Tours of the Carter Mansion, October
- Christmas at the Carter Mansion, December



Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area is located in Carter County on U.S. Highway 321, in Elizabethton, TN. Situated on the Watauga River, the 70-acre area is 30 miles from Interstate 81. From Exit 57 on I-81, take I-26 into Johnson City to old, Exit 31 (new Exit 24). Then take Highway 321/67, traveling approximately 3 miles into Elizabethton. Sycamore Shoals Historic Area is on the left.

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## Hours of Operation:

Visitors' Center: Monday through Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## For Further Information, Contact:

Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area / 1651 W. Elk Ave. / Elizabethton, TN 37643

Office (423) 543-5808

## Or Contact:

Tennessee State Parks / 401 Church St., 7th Floor / Nashville, TN 37243

Phone (888) 867-2757 / [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com)

# TENNESSEE STATE PARKS SYCAMORE SHOALS

## STATE HISTORIC AREA



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## Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area

is perhaps the most historically significant site in Tennessee. Sycamore Shoals played a pivotal role in not only Tennessee history but in the American Revolution. Today, this historic site, preserved as a Tennessee State Park, invites visitors to relive history and enjoy a variety of historical, cultural and recreational experiences.

### Historical significance

Sycamore Shoals was the site of the first permanent American settlement outside the 13 original colonies. It was here that the Watauga Association, the first majority-rule system of American democratic government was formed in 1772, when settlers elected five of their number to "govern and direct for the common good of all the people." These Articles of the Watauga Association invested in those elected representatives the legislative, judicial and executive functions of their fledgling government.

### Picnic Pavilions

There are three handicapped accessible picnic shelters that can be reserved. A picnic area with grills also is located beside the Visitors' Center.

### Hiking

A 1.5-mile loop trail follows the course of the river, passing the historic crossing of the Overmountain Men.

### Facilities

A spacious Visitors Center houses interpretive displays, a theater, the park offices, gift shop, and bookstore. A reconstructed replica of Fort Watauga, based on historical and archaeological research, stands behind the Visitors Center, near the Watauga River. Furnished cabins and structures demonstrate 18th century life on the frontier.

### The Carter Mansion

Built between 1775-1780, The Carter Mansion may be the only remaining direct link to the Watauga Association and is the oldest frame house standing in Tennessee. John Carter and his son, Landon, built it.

Both were prominent in political/military affairs, fighting in the Revolution and several conflicts with the Native American Indians. The finely detailed interior, and over mantle paintings place the mansion among the most significant historic houses in the state. When Tennessee became a state in 1796, Carter County was named for Landon Carter, and the county seat, Elizabethton, was named for his wife, Elizabeth Maclin Carter.

### Amphitheater

A 450-seat amphitheater is located adjacent to the fort and is the site of the presentation of The outdoor drama of the State of Tennessee, "Liberty: The Saga of Sycamore Shoals." performed every July.



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